Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

66
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 IGA-02

DODE-00 MC-02 AID-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 /070 W
---------- 074304
R 051548Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4447

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 7004

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: USTSJC, PFOR, MASS, TS
SUBJECT: US/TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION: BACKGROUND AND
BRIEFING PAPER FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND INFO FOR 1976 US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION RELATING TO PLANNED US SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA IN FY 77, AND PROJECTIONS THROUGH FY 80.
BACKGROUND ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN TUNISIA

I. FY 1977 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN TUNISIA CURRENTLY HAS TWO BASIC COMPONENTS.FISCAL YEAR 1977 SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNDS INCLUDE A NOMINAL AMOUNT OF $400,000 GRANT AID FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAM (IMETP), UNDER WHICH SOME 60 OFFICERS AND MEN RECEIVE VARIOUS MILITARY TRAINING INSTRUCTIONS IN THE US. GRANT AID FOR MATERIEL IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO TUNISIA, ALTHOUGH SOME OUTSTANDING REQUISITIONS UNDER PREVIOUS GRANTS ARE STILL BEING PROCESSED. THE MAJOR COMPONENT OF OUR ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IS THE ANNUAL FMS CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM. TUNISIA HAS EXPRESSED AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN DEVELOPING ITS AIR DEFENSE POSTURE AND HAS INDICATED ITS INTENTIONS TO USE FMS CREDIT OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO IMPROVE THIS SYSTEM. FMS CREDIT FOR FY 76 AMOUNTED TO $15 MILLION WHICH WAS DESIGNATED TO BE APPLIED AGAINST PURCHASE OF THE CHAPARRAL SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE DEFENSE WHICH WHEN AUGMENTED WITH THE VULCAN AND DELIVERED IN 1979-80, WILL HAVE COST APPROX-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

IMATELY $80 MILLION. A $10 MILLION LOAN AGREEMENT FOR FY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

75 WAS RECENTLY SIGNED AND IS PLANNED FOR THE CAPARRAL PURCHASE. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS AGREED TO SEEK FMS CREDITS OF $25 MILLION PER YEAR FOR THE PERIOD FY 77-80, AND WE HAVE SO INFORMED THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT, WITH THE QUALIFICATION THAT NO GUARANTEES CAN BE GIVEN TO THE ACTUAL AMOUNT OF CREDITS THAT MAY BE FINALLY OBTAINED. THE FIVE YEAR OBJECTIVE OVER THE PERIOD FY 76-80, HOWEVER, IS $125 MILLION, WITH MOST OF THIS TO BE USED FOR AIR DEFENSE. OVER THE PAST YEAR, TUNISIA HAS BEEN CANDID IN DISCUSSING ITS SECURITY NEEDS WITH US, AND WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE. THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE FMS CREDIT PROGRAM, CURRENT AND PROJECTED, ARE INDICATIVE OF THIS EFFORT.

II. SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND US INTERESTS: TUNISIA IS A SMALL, MODERATE ARAB STATE WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. TUNISIA HASNO DESIGNS ON ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS, BUT DOES HAVE WELL-GROUNDED REASONS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF LIBYA AND ALGERIA. U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTES TO TUNISIA'S SENSE OF SECURITY, AND IN BROADER TERMS, TO GENERAL NORTH AFRICAN AND SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN STABILITY, A MAJOR US INTEREST. THE ONLY DIRECT EXPENDITURES BORNE BY THE USG, APART FROM RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, ARE THOSE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT A MODEST TRAINING PROGRAM, A MAJOR ASPECT OF OUR BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONS. THIS PROGRAM CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE LEVEL OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN THE TUNISIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, AND PERHAPS OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE EXPOSES TUNISIA'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP OF THE COMING DECADE TO AMERICAN LIFE UNDER FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. THESE CAREFULLY SELECTED MEN NOT ONLY DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION FOR US MILITARY THOUGHT, BUT ALSO ACQUIRE A BROADENED POLITICAL AND SOCIALUNDERSTANDING OF THE US. IF THE PRESENT TREND CONTINUES - AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT IF WE CAN CONTINUE THIS TRAINING PROGRAM - THE VIRTUAL ENTIRETY OF TUNISIA'S MILITARY LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE NEXT TEN YEARS WILL HAVE HAD THIS EXPOSURE.

UNTIL RECENTLY TUNISIA HAS GIVEN ITS MILITARY LOW PRIORITY, PREFERRING TO CHANNEL THE BULK OF ITS RESOURCES
CONFIDENTIAL

TO ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. GROWING CONCERNS OVER LIBYA AND TO A LESSER EXTENT ALGERIA HAVE CAUSED TUNISIA TO EMBARK UPON A MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. THE US SUPPORTS TUNISIA'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS SECURITY, BELIEVING THAT GIVEN THE ARMED STRENGTH AND REVOLUTIONARY ETHOS OF BOTH LIBYA AND ALGERIA, TUNISIA'S MILITARY WEAKNESS OR APPARENT LACK OF RESOLVE COULD CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO INSTABILITY IN NORTH AFRICA.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

IN ADDITION, TUNISIA SEES A STRONG US NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AS SUPPORTIVE OF ITS OWN SECURITY, AND IS THE ONLY COUNTRY ON THE NORTH AFRICAN LITTORAL WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY OPENED ITS PORTS AND WATERS TO SIXTH FLEET WARSHIPS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR POWERED VESSELS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 07004 02 OF 02 051632Z

66
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 IGA-02

DODE-00 MC-02 AID-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 /070 W
---------- 068793
R 051548Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4448

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 7004

III. BILATERAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ISSUES: THE ONLY OUT-STANDING BILATERAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ISSUE BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE US IS THE LEVEL OF OUR HELP. THE TERMINATION OF GRANT AID IN 1975 CAUSED TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT CONCERN ABOUT US INTEREST IN TUNISIAN SECURITY BUT THIS HAS LARGELY BEEN DISSIPATED BY THE INTEREST WE HAVE GIVEN TO AN EXPANDED FMS PROGRAM. TUNISIA'S CURRENT PRIORITY IS THE ACQUISITION OF THE CHAPARRAL SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM, WHICH, ACCORD-ING TO CURRENT PROJECTIONS,CAN BE ENTIRELY FINANCED THROUGH FMS. LONG RANGE ACQUISITION OF AN IMPROVED INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT, SUCH AS THE F-5E AS WELL AS AN EARLY WARNING RADAR SYSTEM, WOULD COMPLIMENT THE TOTAL AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE OF TUNISIA, BUT AT THE MOMENT, THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT CAN NOT AFFORD TO FINANCE SUCH AN EXPENSIVE UNDERTAKING. INTER-EST HAS ALSO BEEN SHOWN IN ACQUIRING AN ANTI-TANK DEFENSE SYSTEM SUCH AS THE TOW MISSILE AND COMPLIMENTARY LAUNCHERS. THESE SYSTEMS ARE LESS EXPENSIVE AND TUNISIA MAY EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE SUCH DEFENSE CAPABILITIES THROUGH ITS OWN RESOURCES OR THROUGH THIRD-COUNTRY ASSISTANCE.

IV. APPRAISAL OF US PROGRAM: WHILE THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN TUNISIA IS OF MODEST SCALE, IT DOES CONTRIBUTE TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

TUNISIAN STABILITY AND SECURITY BY PROVIDING A CREDIBLE
DEFENSE EFFORT. THE TUNISIAN SECURITY PROGRAM IS PURELY DE-
FENSIVE IN NATURE AND POSES NO THREAT TO ANY OF TUNISIA'S
NEIGHBORS. CONSEQUENTLY THIS PROGRAM ALSO CONTRIBUTES IN-
DIRECTLY TO US INTEREST IN MAINTAINING NORTH AFRICAN AND
MEDITERRANEAN STABILITY. TUNISIA'S BASIC DEFENSE STRATEGY
CONFIDENTIAL

IS TWO-FOLD.FIRST, IT IS TO ENSURE ADEQUATE AIR PROTECTION
FOR THE CAPITAL AND TO POSSESS SUFFICIENT GROUND CAPABILITY
TO CONDUCT A DELAYING ACTION AGAINST A THREAT FROM EITHER
LIBYA OR ALGERIA. SECONDLY, IT IS TO USE THIS TIME GAINED
TO ORGANIZE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IN THE U.N. AND ELSEWHERE.
US SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THIS OVERALL
DEFENSIVE STRATEGY. THE US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS'
EMPHASIS ON FMS CREDIT IS CONCEIVED TO SUPPORT THIS STRATEGY
AND TOENCOURAGE TUNISIA TO DEVOTE A LARGER BUT STILL MAN-
AGEABLE AMOUNT OF ITS OWN RESOURCES TO MEETING ITS DEFENSE
NEEDS AND DEVELOPING A GREATER MEASURE OF SELF-RELIANCE.

V. SECURITY ASSITANCE HISTORICAL DATA AND PROJECTION:

SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FY 1974-80 ($MILLIONS)

	FY 74 (ACTUAL)	FY 75 (ACTUAL)	FY 76 (ACTUAL)	FY 7T (ACTUAL)
GRANT MATERIEL	.9	1.4	-	-
SUPPLY OPS	.6	.4	.2	.017
TRAINING	.3	.4	.4	.110
MAP SUBTOTAL	1.8	2.2	.6	.127
FMS CREDITS	2.5	5.0	15.0	10.0
TOTALS	4.3	7.7	15.6	10.127

	FY 77 (EST)	FY 78 (EST)	FY 79 (EST)	FY 80 (EST)
GRANT MATERIEL	-	-	-	-
SUPPLY OPS	.017	-	-	-
TRAINING	.4	.4	.4	.4
MAP SUBTOTAL	.417	.4	.4	.4
FMS CREDITS	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
TOTALS	25.417	25.4	25.4	25.4

NOTE:TOTALGRANT AID 1963-7T EQUALS $33.1 M
TOTAL FMS CREDIT 1963-7T EQUALS $35 M
TOTAL FMS CASH SALES 1963-7T EQUALS $70 M
PROJECTED FMS CREDITS FY 77-80 EQUALS $100 M
CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

TOTAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA SINCE INDE-
PENDENCE INCLUDING LOANS AND FMS CASH SALES: OVER $150 M.

NOTE: TUNISIA STILL HAS OPTION FOR $50 M CREDIT FROM
BITY BANK OF NEW YORK WHICH CAN BE USED TO SUPPLEMENT FMS
CREDITS OF $125 M.
MULCAHY

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS07004
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760375-1352
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761079/aaaacqtt.tel
Line Count: 235
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION: BACKGROUND AND BRIEFING PAPER FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, TS, USTSJC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006